

**KEN Assistive Technologies Workgroup**  
**June 20, 1:00 – 3:00pm**  
**DTS Conference Room, CPT Ninth Floor**

**PRESENT:** Bernie Davenport, Jimmie Brown, Deby Trueblood, Tammy Hatter, Linnie Lee, Jeffrey Ritchie, Norb Ryan, Sherry Sebastian, Connie Sharp

**1. Current AT initiatives**

- KDE and the Office for the Blind work with the KATS Network Regional AT Resource Centers, where software is tested for compatibility with various operating systems and platforms. These four AT Resource Centers work with students on-site and in the schools to evaluate individual needs, determine preferences and provide training.
- The Office for Vocational Rehabilitation offers individual evaluations for post-secondary students and members of the work force
- The One-Stop Centers provide accessible computers with various AT hardware and software components in their public resource rooms
- The Office for the Blind maintains an AT lab used for training consumers to use various AT hardware and software components
- KCTCS is in the process of testing its websites for accessibility
- COT assists agencies within the Commonwealth on verifying the accessibility of their websites, but only at the request of the agency

**2. Deficiencies**

- Agencies struggle to keep labs and testing equipment up to par with what is available to the consumer (i.e. new operating systems, hardware platforms, newer versions of AT software/hardware)
- Results of compatibility testing by individual agencies are not published or made readily available to other state agencies
- Agencies pay higher amounts for software products by not taking advantage of enterprise-level licensing agreements that could apply

**3. Goals (Draft)**

- Section 508 compliance for all state agencies and vendors
- All websites and applications tested for accessibility and verified by an authority
- Take advantage of volume purchasing while preserving the ability to accommodate users' individual preferences
- Secure instant messaging solution for communication with hearing impaired consumers
- Publish AT software/hardware testing results for statewide use (i.e. AT Matrix kept current and made available to public)
- Ensure that AT labs are equipped with the most current hardware and software, and that trainers and testers are prepared to demonstrate them properly.
- ???

#### **4. Barriers to Success**

- Diversity and segmentation within the user community
- Personal preferences and individual needs of students prevent standardization
- Lack of awareness in the web publishing and application development communities
- Volatility of the AT software and hardware markets translates to frequent new version releases and rapidly changing equipment specs
- ???

**Next Meeting: Monday July 16, 1:00 – 3:00, CPT Ninth Floor Conf Rm**